

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-87 (canceled).

88. (new) A method for suppressing differentiation of undifferentiated blood cells in vitro, comprising contacting said cells in vitro with a serrate-1 peptide, thereby suppressing differentiation of said cells.

89. (new) The method according to claim 88, wherein said peptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 5.

90. (new) The method according to claim 88, wherein said peptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 6.

91. (new) The method according to claim 88, wherein said peptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 7.

92. (new) A method for suppressing differentiation of undifferentiated blood cells, comprising contacting said cells in

vitro with a serrate-1 peptide, thereby suppressing differentiation of said cells and wherein said amino acid sequence is encoded by a gene of human origin.

93. (new) The method according to claim 92, wherein said peptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 5.

94. (new) The method according to claim 92, wherein said peptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 6.

95. (new) The method according to claim 92, wherein said peptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 7.

96. (new) A method for suppressing differentiation of undifferentiated blood cells in vitro comprising contacting said cells in vitro with a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, thereby suppressing differentiation of said cells.

97. (new) A method for suppressing differentiation of undifferentiated blood cells in vitro comprising contacting said cells with a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 5, thereby suppressing differentiation of said cells and wherein amino acid sequence is encoded by a gene of human origin.